



ASHA
American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

January 11, 2024

The Honorable Travis Hutson, Chair
The Honorable Linda Stewart, Vice Chair
Committee on Fiscal Policy
The Florida Senate
404 S Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: SB 7016

Dear Senators Hutson and Stewart:

On behalf of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, I write to express support for SB 7016, which adopts the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC).

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 228,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology assistants; and students. Over 12,500 ASHA members reside in Florida.¹

ASHA members often have difficulty obtaining multiple state licenses due to administrative burdens. These burdens hinder their ability to provide quality services and restrict consumer access in underserved and rural communities. I am pleased to support SB 7016, which will address these issues by:

- Enhancing consumer protection, while maintaining state sovereignty.
- Increasing access to care.
- Improving continuity of care when clients, patients, and/or students travel
- Supporting spouses of relocating active-duty military personnel

Passage of this bill would allow Florida to join 30 other ASLP-IC member states², including neighbors Alabama and Georgia. ASHA is joined by the Florida Association of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology and the Department of Defense, along with over 30 other national organizations, in supporting this legislation.³ I hope the Committee will pass this important bill to ensure Florida practitioners and residents with communication disorders can enjoy the benefits of the ASLP-IC.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Susan Adams, ASHA's director of state legislative and regulatory affairs, at sadams@asha.org.

Sincerely,

Tena L. McNamara, AuD, CCC-A/SLP
2024 ASHA President

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (2022). *Florida* [Quick Facts]. <https://www.asha.org/siteassets/advocacy/state-fliers/florida-state-flyer.pdf>.

² Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. Compact Map. <https://aslpcompact.com/compact-map/>.

³ Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. Supporting Organizations. <https://aslpcompact.com/supporting-organizations/>.